



DATE: August 4, 2025

TO: Mayor Robinson and City Councilmembers

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Community Development

SUBJECT: Neighborhood Walks 2025

Since 2016, Neighborhood Walks have provided a place for unstructured conversations between City leadership and Bellevue residents and an ability to learn about the City through their eyes.

This year, 50 residents participated in three Neighborhood Walks held on July 10 and July 23-24 in BelRed, Eastgate and Cougar Mountain/Lakemont. Each walk began with an introduction and sharing by residents, followed by a walk around the neighborhood area – stopping at key locations to learn more about local places of interest. This summer, the walks included learning about affordable housing and the BelRed Arts District around the 130th Light Rail Station, planning for a new Eastgate neighborhood park, and the new acquisition and expansion of the Coal Creek Natural Area in Cougar Mountain. The city also provided Mandarin interpretation at the Cougar Mountain neighborhood walk.

The highlight of the Neighborhood Walks has always been the insight and discovery gleaned from the conversations with residents.

What was heard. Conversations across the neighborhoods included the following highlights and discoveries:

- BelRed Arts District Community Alliance director Sandy Vo shared about existing and upcoming events and public installations in the arts district.
- Local businesses Pacific Northwest Ballet, Theatre 33 and West Coast Drum Shop highlighted their connection to the community through classes and events, featuring local productions and performances that reflect the emerging neighborhood.
- BelRed residents shared about the elements of the BelRed Arts District that inspire them, including the need for more affordable art studio space, music venues, restaurants and adding art and signage throughout the BelRed Arts District.

- Eastgate Community Association leader, Micki Larimer shared about the group's community events and focus on Community, Advocacy and Safety.
- Eastgate residents shared a love for the trees and their desire to participate in the planning of the new neighborhood park and upcoming Neighborhood Area Planning efforts, as well as concerns over the rapid change in homes being developed and the need for additional park space throughout Eastgate.
- In Cougar Mountain, residents shared about their daily use of Bellevue's parks and trails and open spaces. They expressed gratitude for the city's prioritization of snow removal during weather events, as well as, concern about the impact of increased traffic congestion on Lakemont Boulevard. Residents also noted the increased diversity of the community and expressed a desire for more ways to increase community connections across cultural or language barriers.

Next Steps

Neighborhood Walks provide a way for city leadership and residents to connect informally in conversations in the neighborhood. They have provided greater learning and mutual understanding between city leaders and Bellevue residents, as well as, the discovery of some of Bellevue's unique neighborhood amenities.

Residents are invited to provide feedback on how to improve Neighborhood Walks for any future iterations. Comments are welcome at neighborhoodoutreach@bellevuewa.gov